

Workingmen's Houses,
Dennis Powers House
345 South Locust Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-J

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-J-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 345 South Locust Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 2.6
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691920.4706300
Lot dimensions : 47'x 100': .11 acre
Lot description: Subdivision of Lot 3, Lot 2,
Lot 4 and North 10' of Lot 5
of Levi's Addition

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 24'x 16'; 1-story side addition:
12'x 12'; concrete front stoop: 7'x 4'.

Orientation : east

Architectural Description : Plan type : Georgian I with one-story side addition.
Foundation: parged stone perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: square butt asbestos-cement shingles over wood
beveled siding.

Roofs : moderately pitched, side-gabled roofs over main
block and side addition; 3-tab asphalt shingles
throughout.

Chimneys : two straddle-roof brick chimneys: interior lo-
cation on main block, gable end on side wing.

Dormers : none

Windows : 6/6 double-hung sash on main block, 6/1 on side
addition; plain casings, slip sills.

Openings : centrally placed, single-leaf, paneled front
door; plain casings.

Porches : three-step concrete stoop at main entrance,
with elliptical arched hood supported by two
wood cantilever brackets.

Details : boxed cornices.

Construction Date : 1877

Architecture style: Side gabled box

Physical History : Dubuque capitalist and land speculator Alexander Levi
platted a small residential subdivision along Southern Avenue (now South Locust
Street) in 1873. A year later he sold this property to laborer Dennis Powers
[Power], and Powers built this two-story frame house in 1877 for the reported

cost of \$500. Michael Powers (relationship unknown), a printer for the *Dubuque Daily Times*, sold the house, along with the property immediately north [HABS No. IA-159-I], to Josephine Althaus in 1908. The house has since been occupied by long-term tenants. In 1984 it was acquired by the Iowa Department of Transportation for demolition. The building has undergone several exterior alterations and additions, including: construction of a single-story side addition, removal of the original front porch and sheathing of the roof with asphalt shingles and exterior walls with asbestos-cement siding.

Significance: Though somewhat altered, this side-gabled house is a representative example of the workingmen's dwellings built along Southern Avenue at the periphery of Dubuque in the 1870s and 1880s.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-22.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).
Dubuque Daily Herald: 14 December 1877.

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
October 1988.